



# Newsletter

<https://sites.google.com/a/northampton-k12.us/nps/our-schools/jackson-street-school>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northampton-Public-Schools-Massachusetts/179921372117715>

<https://www.facebook.com/jacksonstreetpto> <http://www.jspto.org/>

You may also connect with us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/NPSDistrict>

Ms. Alessi's website: <https://sites.google.com/northampton-k12.us/mindfulnessatjss>

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 23 No. 34

May 24, 2019

If you wish to have a copy of this letter written in Spanish, French or Arabic, please contact the school department at 587-1315. Si le gustaria esta carta en Espanol, es posible. Llama 413-587-1315. Si vous voulez une copie de cette lettre en Français, veuillez contacter le Département de l'École 587-1315. إذا رغبت أن يكتب لك هذه الرسالة بلغة أخرى، يرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

## MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

### NO SCHOOL MONDAY, MAY 27 - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

#### MCAS

We're done – over for this school year! Many thanks to all who supported and prepared our students for this. As is typical of our MCAS test-taking time, students did indeed work hard, tried their best and felt relaxed and FINE about it. A special thanks to their teachers in grades 3-5 and Mr. Cantler, our Technology Integration Specialist for the tech support and for cheering us on.

#### REMINDER - PBJTM – PLEASE BRING IN DONATIONS

Our annual collection of peanut butter, jam/jelly, tuna and mac & cheese begins on Monday, May 13 and goes till Wednesday, June 12. The food collected is given to the Northampton Survival Center for its summer food program. It is critical that the Survival Center's shelves are well stocked in the summer for families whose children do not have the breakfasts and lunches provided by schools.

#### PRINCIPAL TRANSITION

Our next Transition Team meeting is on Tuesday, June 4, 3:30-5PM in the library. The members of the team are collecting and organizing the responses of families, students and staff about what makes JSS special and what we'd like the new principal to know and do. We also are asking what areas/things we'd like the new principal to work on and/or add.

**Chip Wood**, transition consultant, and I joined families and staff at a Reading (and Listening) Party, in the Hampshire Heights neighborhood. MANY thanks to Lourdes Santiago, 4th grader, Yhazir's mom, for organizing the party and to ALL who came. Over the course of the remaining weeks in this school year, I will share responses – the following are the ones from the families in Hampshire Heights:

#### What is special about JSS? Hampshire Heights Apt. 19C May 17, 2019

- People from all over the world go there.
- The lunches – they taste good.
- We learn different languages.
- Principal's Table
- Exploring the woods.
- Jackson, the dog
- Computers
- Science Night
- Field Day
- Used Book Fair (started by Josefina who was at the meeting)

- Math Club
- Walking School Bus
- The teachers – are good at explaining things and make you feel comfortable
- Parents can come to the classrooms and play games
- HOLA – it's possible for ALL to do it (scholarships)
- Fair choices
- Movie Nights
- The rules (recited from memory by a 2nd grader): Be safe, Be kind, Be respectful, Play fair, Try your best, Have fun
- Families and community – HAVE to know them all!
- Everyone's invited – reaching out to everyone, invitations to everyone, robo calls
- Red Bag shares

## Things to Add

- Sports, games before/after school
- Astronomy (maybe add to Science Night)
- Dances from different cultures
- Politics

## OFF TO NYC

My husband, Tom Marantz and I left for NYC on Thursday afternoon to attend the CD release party at Birdland for our son-in-law and his trio – The Alex Smith Trio – on Thursday night. We're excited for him and to be able to be there. Several of our family members will gather to celebrate, including our daughter, Nell Marantz, Alex's wife. MANY thanks to **Mrs. Malynoski** and **Mrs. Ghazey** for being Guest Teachers on Thursday afternoon and Friday. I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, May 28, after a 3-day weekend in observance of Memorial Day.

*Respectfully and affectionately yours,*

*Gwen Agna*  
Gwen Agna

## LIBRARY CLOSSES TODAY!

Please bring any books you may have at home to school so Ms. Russell can do the inventory – thanks!!

## NEF NEWS

The Northampton Education Foundation (NEF) is delighted to announce the establishment of the **Principal Gwen Agna Fund for Northampton Public Education** as part of the NEF Endowment.

As Ms. Agna enters her final year as Principal of Jackson Street School, NEF honors her educational legacy with this unrestricted, permanent fund to support Northampton's public schools.

On Friday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m. at Jackson Street School, NEF will honor Ms. Agna with an official naming of the fund and a Senate citation presented by Senator Jo Comerford.

Weather permitting, we will gather outside near the Jackson Street School sign. In case of inclement weather, we will gather in the lobby.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Horn at [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com) or 646-234-8805

## FREE BOOK FAIR JUNE 4th!

The JSS PTO is planning the annual FREE BOOK FAIR, which will be held on Tuesday, June 4th and Wednesday June 5th. Students will go with their teacher and classmates during one of those two days. Each child will be able to select at least one book (perhaps more based on how many books we receive) for FREE so that all students can start their summer with books in hand.

How can you help? We need your donations of gently used children's books. You can bring them in bags or boxes and leave them on the left hand side of the JSS lobby. Please donate only books appropriate for K-5 reading. If you have older children, we can always use more advanced reading material for our 4th and 5th graders. We are also especially looking graphic novels and bilingual books. Gracias! Merci! Arigato! Danke! Shukran!

If you have books that you'd like to offload that are not appropriate or in good enough condition for our fair, please consider donating them to other organizations or recycling them.

Call for volunteers - if you'd like to help with the book sorting or the fair, please contact Gavin Grant at [gjgrant@gmail.com](mailto:gjgrant@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Horn at [elhorn@mindspring.com](mailto:elhorn@mindspring.com). Thank you!

## **JSS Gives for Nature's Classroom June 4th**

Join us for a Jackson Street School Day of Giving, JSS Gives! In the spirit of Valley Gives and Giving Tuesday we are holding our very own 24-hour day of giving in support of next year's 5th grade trip to Nature's Classroom.

Every October 5th graders spend 4 days and 3 nights at Nature's Classroom and we are raising money to ensure every child can attend this amazing experience. Our goal is to raise \$3000 for 10 scholarships. Mark your calendars for June 4th and help us make the first JSS Gives a huge success! More details on how to donate will be announced in the next newsletter.

## **Volunteer for Field Day! Friday June 7!**

Come join in the fun with your children. We need help in the morning, afternoon, or all day. Each Classroom will come outside and play at each of the stations, we need a lot of parents to help run each of these. It is such a fun day! Sign up via sign up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoA4EA9A629A2FDo-jssfield1> or Email [vkeillor@gmail.com](mailto:vkeillor@gmail.com) or [mjlussier@gmail.com](mailto:mjlussier@gmail.com) directly

## **Garden Build Day at Hampshire Heights!**

The build day was a success-- all 12 raised beds were built, which included 3 double high for people who need something more at their height. Communal raised beds are in the works, as the kids finish decorating!

A garden tool drive is being launched at JSS to support our neighborhood gardeners. If you can donate any new or gently used tools from the list below please add them to our collection box in the lobby by Friday, June 7th!

- Trowels- 12
- Adult gardening gloves- 12
- Kid gardening gloves- 12
- Full size digging shovel- 4 <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Razor-Back-25-75-in-Wood-Handle-Super-Socket-Digging-Shovel-2594200/204476137>
- 100 ft hose -1
- Hose sprayer - 1
- Small hand rakes
- Kid-specific gardening tools

Questions? Email: [jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com)

## **Bingo Night a Success!**

Thank you to everyone who came to Bingo Night on Friday. It was a lot of laughs, it had some nail biting moments and in general was a ton of fun! A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers without whom it would not have been possible. In addition to all the fun, we raised \$540 for Nature's Classroom! Thanks again to everyone.

Kerry LaBounty

## **HOLA is needing donations of items**

Any recycled items that can be upcycled into art- such as cereal boxes, packing materials, corks, plastic food and drink containers, thread spools, jars with lids, water bottle, coffee cans and yogurt containers and lids, tissue boxes, old CDs and DVDs, string and twine and more (you name it)! Please bring into office, marked for HOLA.

Thank you!!!

## **Girls on the Run Season Finale 5K Run**

Dear families and friends, please join the JSS Girls on the Run Team on Sunday, June 2nd, 10:30 am at the Springfield College campus!

This fun and inspiring event is open to the community, and all are welcome to participate in various ways. It's going to be amazing to run, cheer, and celebrate with the 950 girls who are participating in GOTR in Western MA this season. Running Buddies, family members and community members who would like to run or volunteer may register on the GOTR website: [www.girlsontherunwesternma.org](http://www.girlsontherunwesternma.org). Day of event registration will also be available.

(Families of 4 or more may use the family registration discount, which is 50% off for each person. To apply this discount, enter code FAMILY4PACK when asked to enter coupon code. Financial assistance to participate is available. Please contact Alison at [alison.berman@girlsontherun.org](mailto:alison.berman@girlsontherun.org) to apply).

Thank you so much for your support throughout this season!

Looking forward to seeing you in Springfield, Coaches Amy, Andrea, and Taylor

(Feel free to contact Andrea with any questions at [a.doehne@gmail.com](mailto:a.doehne@gmail.com))

## **FAMILY LOOKING**

House & pet sitting opportunity available during school vacation- 3-bedroom house with large yard available in family-friendly Baystate Village neighborhood.

For more information please contact Andrea at [a.doehne@gmail.com](mailto:a.doehne@gmail.com).

# WORKSHOP SERIES – FINAL SESSION

## Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home

Thursday, June 6th, 6:30-8PM

The basis for everything that children need to be successful in the world, communication skills, self-care, self-worth, team building, lifelong habits, beliefs, and more, all begin at home. Unfortunately, many of our homes focus more on our electronics than on the real needs of people.

This evening's workshop offers parents the time and support to develop practical solutions to the dominant role that the screens occupy in our homes. That same role that often ignores and denies important things like downtime, connection, quiet, and peaceful mealtimes.

### Presenter:

Susan McNamara, M.A., CHHC, is a Certified Holistic Health Counselor who is trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, and holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. Susan is an adjunct professor at Westfield State University where one of the topics she explores with her students is the impact technology is having on their health and well-being.

For almost twenty-five years, Susan has been contemplating, researching, and most importantly living the questions around technology and children with her own family and others. She has just finished her first book, Remembering What Matters Most: A Contemplative Approach To Children & Technology.

Susan can be reached at 413-527-2230 or thefarmat-avalon@hotmail.com. Check out the article in a recent Daily Hampshire Gazette by Susan, entitled "Pandora's phone – and what to do when your child has seen something she can't unsee online". The link for this is: <https://www.gazettenet.com/Kids-and-screens-23738686>.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SCI-TECH CAFÉ

Event location: Union Station, 125A Pleasant Street, Northampton MA. Light appetizers are available while supplies last, and food is available to order.

Time: 6:00pm  
6/3/19: TBA

## NEWS FROM AUDUBON AT ARCADIA

### Some Camp Sessions Still Available!

Summer camp filled up fast this year, but a few open spots are left! Space is available in a 2-week Great Blue Heron camp for ages 9-12 (starts August 5) call 413-584-3009 for more information

### Arcadia Folk Festival

September 28, 2019

Signature Sounds and Mass Audubon are excited to announce the second Arcadia Folk Festival!

This outdoor fall musical event brings the community together around music in the heart of the Pioneer Valley and will mark the end of the 75th anniversary celebrations for Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pre-Sale Tickets (Members only)

\$35 Adult or Child

Free for ages 10 & under

Now through June 3, tickets are just \$35 each during this special early bird sale exclusively available to Mass Audubon members. But hurry, because only 200 tickets are available at this special price!

#### Not a Mass Audubon member?

Not a problem! Right now, you can add a one-year individual or family membership to your ticket order for just \$32—that's half-off the regular price! Call 413-584-3009 or visit the website:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/arcadia/news-events/arcadia-folk-festival>

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Parents Hour in the Family Center – on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 9-10AM.

- Mon. May 27 NO SCHOOL – MEMORIAL DAY
- Thurs. May 30 All-school assembly WELCOME BACK JSS/HIGH SCHOOL GRADS – KDGners are hosts 2PM
- Fri. May 31 Mr. Chip Wood meets with the JSS office staff and also with 5th graders – regarding the transition to a new principal  
Ms. Agna Fund for Public Education – NEF Kick-Off at 12:30PM – meet at the school sign
- Tues, June 4 Used Book Fair!  
Transition Team meeting 3:30-5PM
- Thurs. June 6 HOLA ends!  
Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home – workshop 6:30-8PM
- Fri, June 7 FIELD DAY!
- Sat. June 8 Planting the community garden in Hampshire Heights – 10AM-Noon
- Mon., June 10 RAIN DATE for Field Day
- Tues. June 11 Transition Team meeting – wrap-up with Chip Wood
- Wed. June 12 All-school assembly FINE FINE SCHOOL 10:30AM  
JSS FAMILY PICNIC and GOODBYE to Mrs. Malynoski, Ms. Cowhey, and Ms. Russell
- Thurs. June 13 5th GRADE GRADUATION 1:30PM in the gym
- Fri. June 14 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – dismissal at 12:20PM (unless we have another snow day!)

## ASSEMBLY DATES

May 30– 2:00PM KDG - JSS Grads

June 12 – 10:30AM Ms. Agna Fine Fine School

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**YES I/we would like to attend the following:**

**4. Creating A People-Centered Home VS. A Screen-Centered Home,  
Thursday, June 6th 6:30-8PM** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children who need childcare \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the school office or your child's teacher.



The Special Education  
Parent Advisory Committee  
Requests the Honor of Your Presence at the

2019

# Staff Appreciation Awards

Thursday June 13, 2019

6:30 PM

Northampton High School  
Library

Reception to Follow